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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JEDDAH 000578

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RIYADH, PLEASE PASS TO DHAHRAN; DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP;
PARIS FOR WALLER; LONDON FOR TSOU; NSC FOR PANDITH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KISL](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO SECRETARY RICE FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF THE TERM
"ISLAMOFASCIST"

1. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) conveyed the
following letter via fax to Consulate General Jeddah for
transmission to Secretary Rice:

2. Begin text:

[Page 1]

Organization of the Islamic Conference
The Secretary General

OIC/SG-1/2006
Jeddah 15, August 2006

Excellency,

I would like to express my happiness and relief over the successful
foiling of a major terrorist attack targeting the lives of many
innocent civilians by blowing up several aircraft on the
trans-Atlantic route. I reaffirm our Organization's strong
condemnation of all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their
perpetrators and motives. Terrorism today poses one of the biggest
threats to the collective security of the international community
and well-being and requires coordinated global response. The Muslim
world, as a vital part of the international community and frequent
victim of terrorism will continue to be an effective and reliable
partner in the global fight against this menace. The Organization
of the Islamic Conference, bringing together 57 member states, has
an explicit agenda, policy and various programs for combating
terrorism in a comprehensive manner by taking active part in the
international cooperation.

At this sensitive time, reinforcing international cooperation
remains vital in containing and eliminating the scourge of
terrorism, more than ever. The support of the masses, especially in
the Muslim world is also an important element. However, we are
concerned that some statements attributed to the U.S. Administration
are being perceived by the Muslim masses around the world that the
campaign of war on terror is actually targeting the religion of
Islam and Muslims. These perceptions or misperceptions coincide
with the fact that since 9/11, Muslim citizens of the western
countries, including the U.S.A, as well as Muslims at large have
been victimized by various acts of stereotyping, defamation,
discrimination and even physical attacks. It is our observation
that especially certain quarters and certain media members are
manipulating the situation by inflaming hatred against all Muslims

and the religion of Islam to advance their own agenda.

In this context we are concerned that the recent qualification by H.E. President Bush of perpetrations of terrorism as "Islamofascist," might provide more ammunition and be construed as a support for the proponents of these unfortunate campaigns against Muslims and Islam. As you well know, any association of our noble and peaceful religion of Islam with the phenomenon of terrorism and evil acts of terrorists is totally unacceptable by the true Muslims and taken as a total misrepresentation and injustice.

H.E. Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State of

SIPDIS
The United States of American

[Page 2]

I strongly believe that fuelling already existing impressions or perceptions, that the war on terror is actually a war on Islam, in the minds of the Muslim masses, can not serve the interest of the United States and the international community at a time when the war on terror needs active cooperation of all Muslim countries and communities.

Therefore, it would be of vital importance that every opportunity should be taken advantage of to dispel these impressions and perceptions.

My Organization, from one side is exerting efforts to contribute to the international endeavors against international terrorism and from other side is taking active part in efforts to combat misperceptions between the West and the Muslim world by pursuing active and constructive policies. We are committed to continue our cooperation with you in these areas.

JEDDAH 00000578 002 OF 002

With the hope that our sincere concerns will be given due consideration, I reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signed]
Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu
Secretary General

End text.
Gfoeller

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